

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



FISCAL NOTE

HB 1897 - SB 1653

March 20, 2011

SUMMARY OF BILL: Reduces, from six to no more than five, the members of the State Textbook Commission who are educators with at least a bachelor's degree and five years of teaching, supervisory, or administrative experience. One of these members shall be an administrative official in a school system, one teacher from grades one to three, one teacher from grades four to eight, and one teacher from grades nine to twelve. Increases, from three to five, the commission members who are citizens of Tennessee, not employed in the educational system and who are knowledgeable about one or more subject areas. The Commissioner of Education shall serve as an ex officio voting member. Requires two members of the Commission to be appointed from each Grand Division. Commission members shall serve three-year terms. Three Commission members shall be appointed each year, except that in every third year, four members shall be appointed, so that approximately one-third of the Commission is replaced annually. Appointments to the Commission shall expire on December 31 of the third year of the term. Requires Commission members to take an oath prohibiting them from being financially interested in textbooks, authors, publishers, or distributors of textbooks. Each member shall receive a per diem of \$15 per day for meetings along with necessary travel expenses. Requires all textbooks to be made available to any Commission member at the expense of the Commission and to any citizen of Tennessee at the citizen's expense upon request. Sets forth provisions for the number of meetings and authorizes the Commission to appoint an advisory panel of experts to advise the Commission on textbook selection.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures – Exceeds \$150,000

Assumptions:

- According to the Department of Education, Commission members currently receive books during each adoption cycle at the expense of the publishers. Requiring commission members to receive books at the commission's expense will require an increase in state expenditures.
- According to DOE, the average textbook costs \$75.00. During this year's mathematics adoption cycle, a total of 191 books were bid. The Total cost for the commission to receive this cycle of books would have been \$143,250 (10 members x 191 books x \$75). Books for the future Cycle VI adoption will total 473. Cost for these books will be \$354,750 (10 members x 473 books x \$75). DOE estimates that future textbook cycles will increase state expenditures at least \$150,000 per adoption cycle.

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- Citizens are notified each July through August of the availability of textbooks being bid for their review. Any citizen wishing to purchase a book will do so at their own expense and will pay shipping and handling charges.
- The total number of commission members is unchanged. Any increase in state expenditures for per diem or travel expenses will not be significant.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James W. White". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" written in a smaller, more compact script than the last name "White".

James W. White, Executive Director

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